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SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
CHAMPIONS
#1
OF 4
SONIC SMACK DOWN
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 268

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SUPER-FAST HERO

AMY & TAILS
SONIC'S TOUGH TAG TEAM

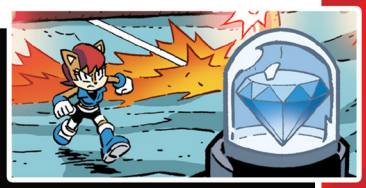
???

???

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

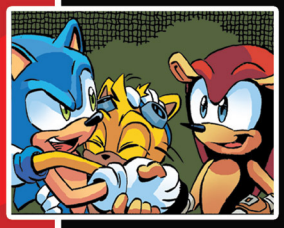
PREVIOUSLY...

GLOBAL GAMBLE

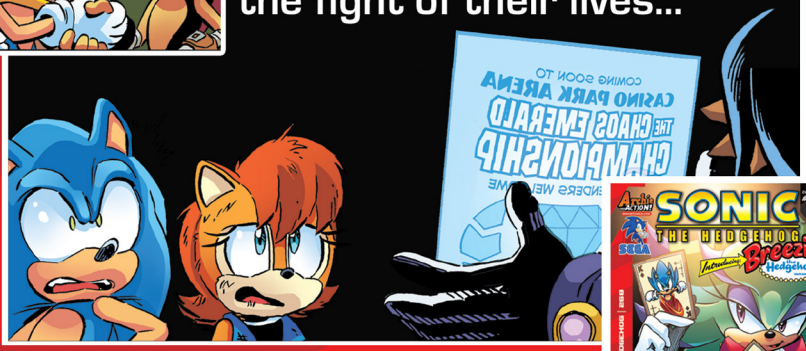


The Shattered World Crisis is upon us! Thanks to Dr. Eggman, the planet has been split into multiple flying pieces. The corrupting essence of Dark Gaia now seeps from the planet's core, forming into monsters every night!

Sonic and the Freedom Fighters are on the hunt for the Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples. Together, their mystical powers can fix the world. The journey has taken Sonic and crew all over the world, bringing them new friends and new foes.



And now it will put them in
the fight of their lives...



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BREEZIE THE HEDGEHOG VARIANT BY
Jonathan H. Gray,
Terry Austin, Gabriel Cassata & Jack Morelli

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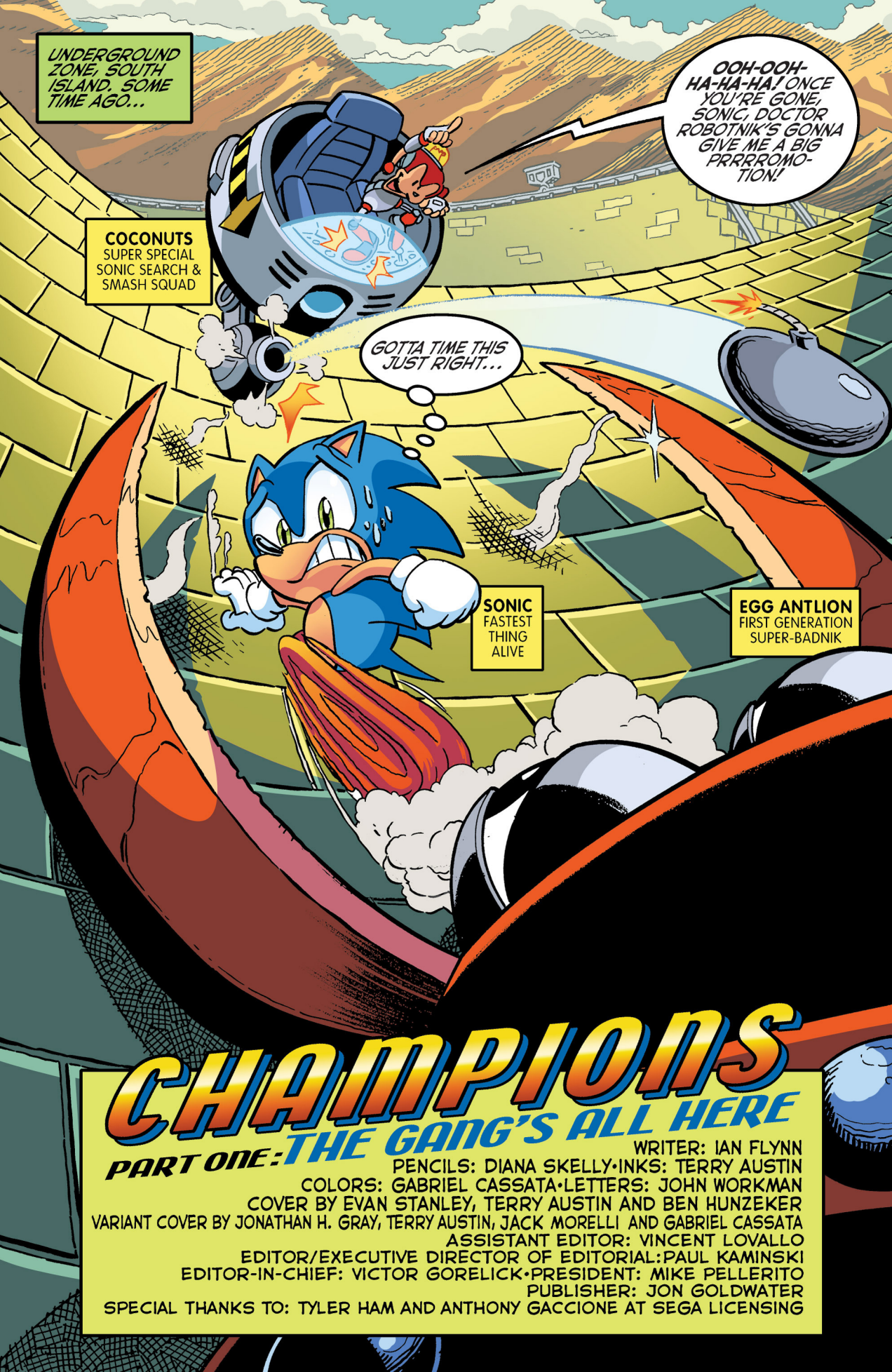
UNDERGROUND ZONE, SOUTH ISLAND. SOME TIME AGO...
OOH-OOH-HA-HA-HA! ONCE YOU'RE GONE, SONIC, DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S GONNA GIVE ME A BIG PRRRROMO-TION!
COCONUTS SUPER SPECIAL SONIC SEARCH & SMASH SQUAD
GOTTA TIME THIS JUST RIGHT...
SONIC FASTEST THING ALIVE
EGG ANTLION FIRST GENERATION SUPER-BADNIK

CHAMPIONS

PART ONE: THE GANG'S ALL HERE

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COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA•LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
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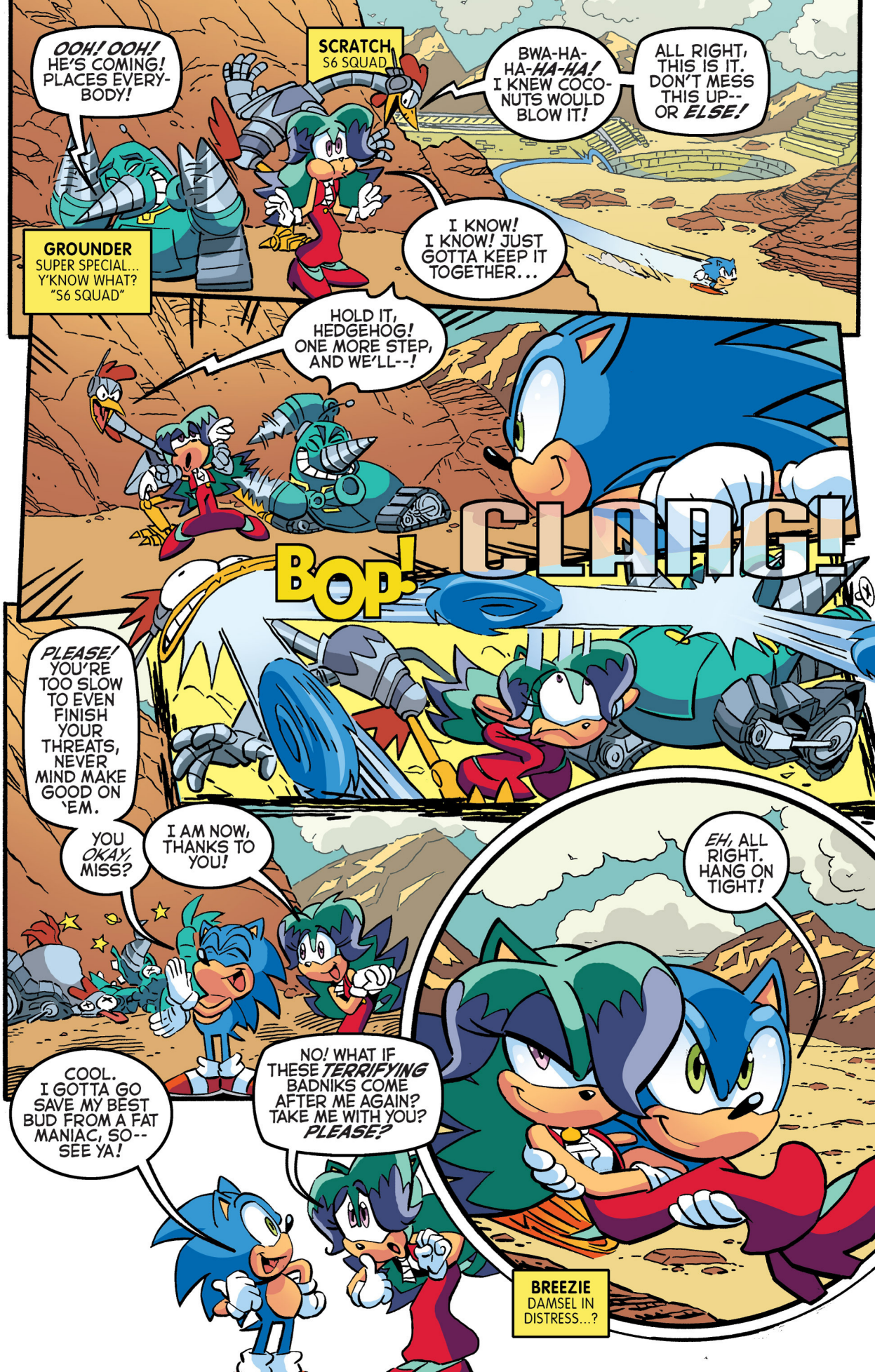
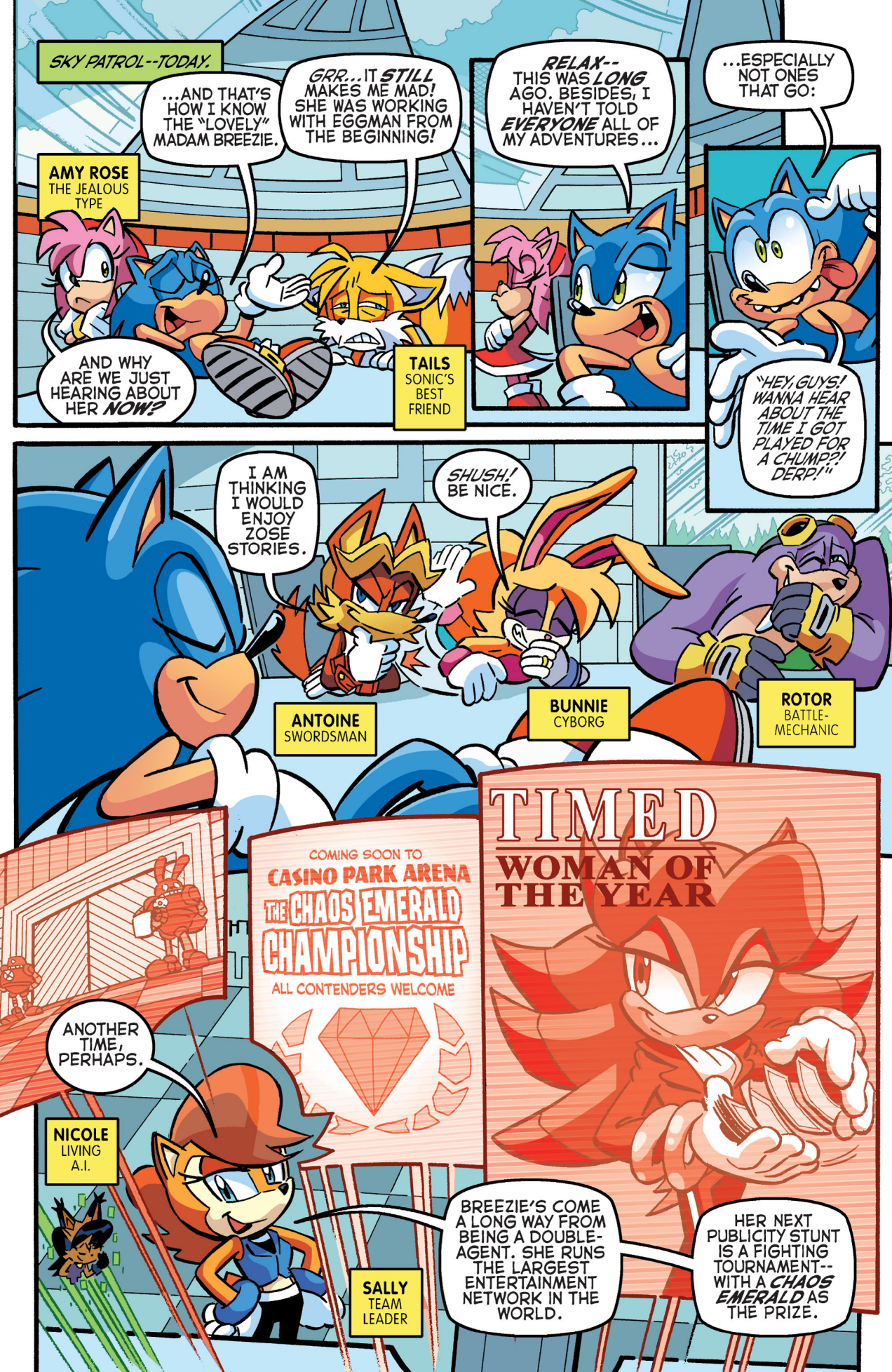
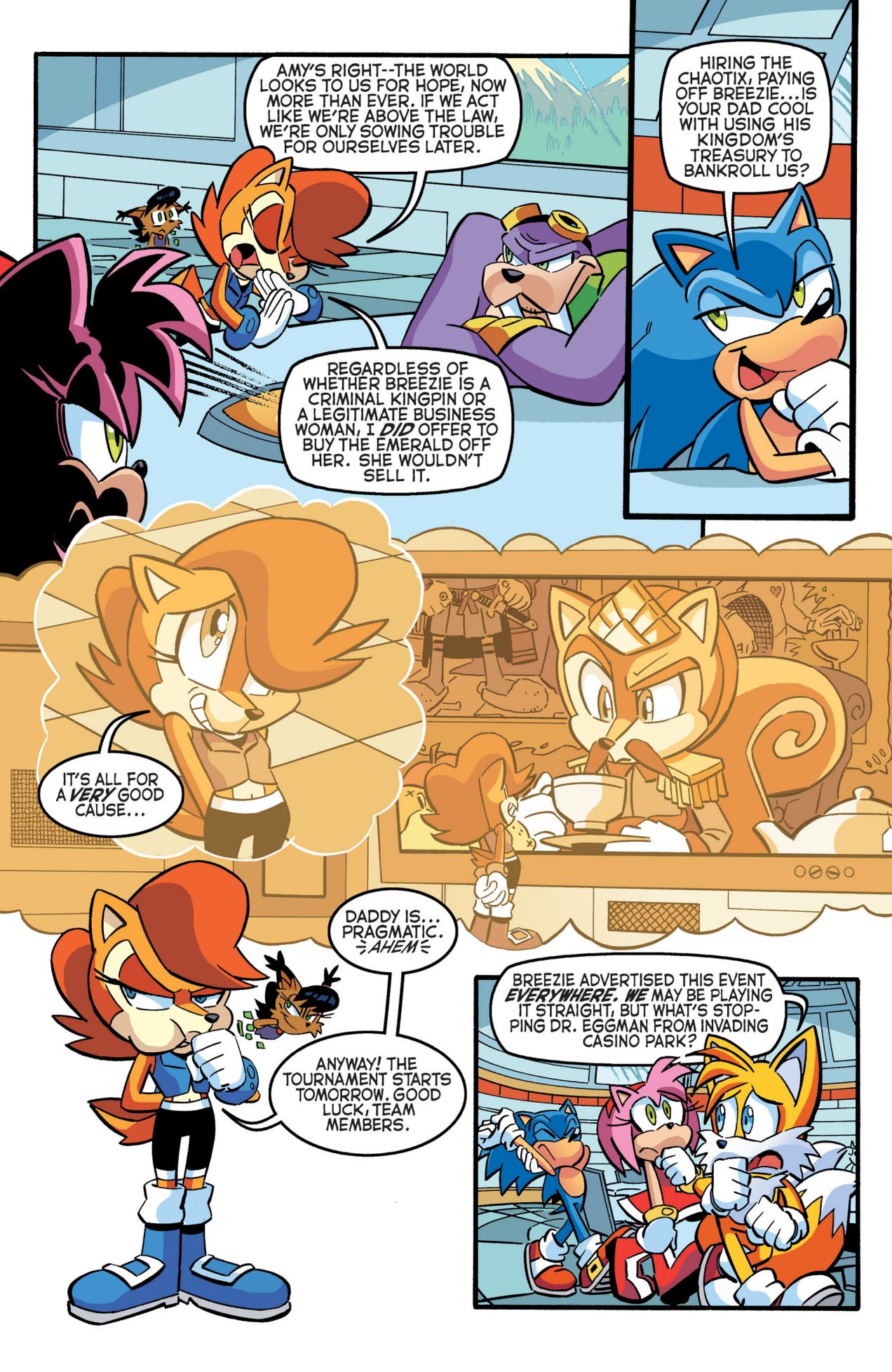
SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM AND ANTHONY GACCIONE AT SEGA LICENSING

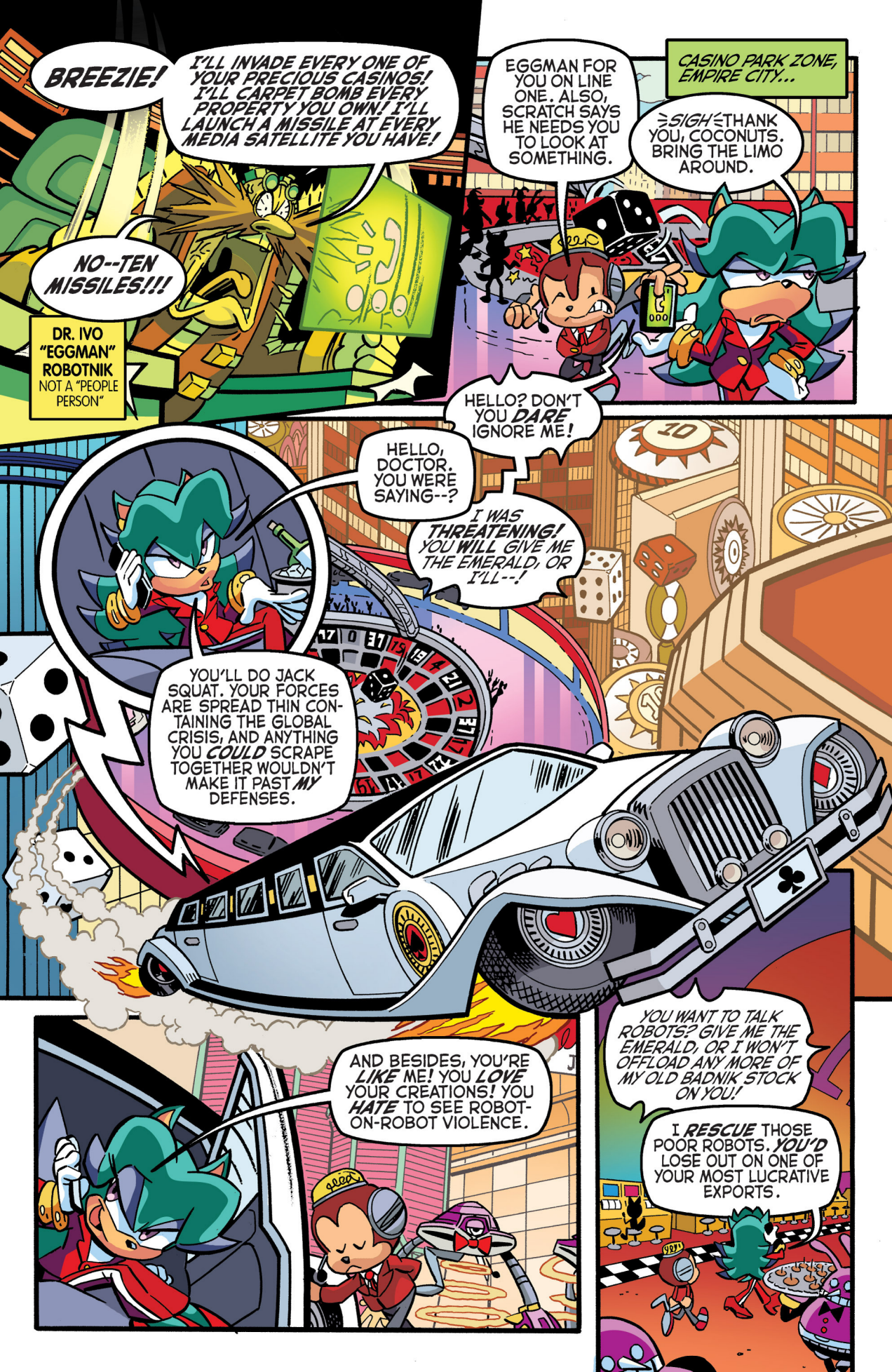
NOT WITH THAT KIND OF AIM! LOOKS LIKE THE PRIZE WILL GO TO THIS UGLY THING-- NYAH NYAH!
NO! I'M NEVER SCRUBBING ANOTHER EGG TOILET AGAIN!
Foomp!
Foomp!
KA-BOOM!
KA-BOOM!
PERFECT!
KA-BLAM!
GOOOOOAL!
NOW FOR THE OTHER TWO!
GYAH!
IT'S LIKE I'M LIVING A BAD COMEDY...


OOH! OOH! HE'S COMING! PLACES EVERY-BODY!
SCRATCH S6 SQUAD
BWA-HA-HA-HA-HA! I KNEW COCO-NUTS WOULD BLOW IT!
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS IT. DON'T MESS THIS UP-- OR ELSE!
GROUNDER SUPER SPECIAL... Y'KNOW WHAT? "S6 SQUAD"
I KNOW! I KNOW! JUST GOTTA KEEP IT TOGETHER...
HOLD IT, HEDGEHOG! ONE MORE STEP, AND WE'LL--!
BOP!
CLANG!
PLEASE! YOU'RE TOO SLOW TO EVEN FINISH YOUR THREATS, NEVER MIND MAKE GOOD ON 'EM.
YOU OKAY, MISS?
I AM NOW, THANKS TO YOU!
EH, ALL RIGHT. HANG ON TIGHT!
COOL. I GOTTA GO SAVE MY BEST BUD FROM A FAT MANIAC, SO-- SEE YA!
NO! WHAT IF THESE TERRIFYING BADNIKS COME AFTER ME AGAIN? TAKE ME WITH YOU? PLEASE?
BREEZIE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS...?


SKY PATROL--TODAY.
AMY ROSE
THE JEALOUS TYPE
...AND THAT'S HOW I KNOW THE "LOVELY" MADAM BREEZIE.
GRR... IT STILL MAKES ME MAD! SHE WAS WORKING WITH EGGMAN FROM THE BEGINNING!
AND WHY ARE WE JUST HEARING ABOUT HER NOW?
TAILS
SONIC'S BEST FRIEND
RELAX-- THIS WAS LONG AGO. BESIDES, I HAVEN'T TOLD EVERYONE ALL OF MY ADVENTURES...
...ESPECIALLY NOT ONES THAT GO:
"HEY, GUYS! WANNA HEAR ABOUT THE TIME I GOT PLAYED FOR A CHUMP?! DERP!"
I AM THINKING I WOULD ENJOY ZOSE STORIES.
SHUSH! BE NICE.
ANTOINE
SWORDSMAN
BUNNIE
CYBORG
ROTOR
BATTLE-MECHANIC
COMING SOON TO
CASINO PARK ARENA
THE CHAOS EMERALD CHAMPIONSHIP
ALL CONTENDERS WELCOME
TIMED
WOMAN OF THE YEAR
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS.
NICOLE
LIVING A.I.
SALLY
TEAM LEADER
BREEZIE'S COME A LONG WAY FROM BEING A DOUBLE-AGENT. SHE RUNS THE LARGEST ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK IN THE WORLD.
HER NEXT PUBLICITY STUNT IS A FIGHTING TOURNAMENT-- WITH A CHAOS EMERALD AS THE PRIZE.

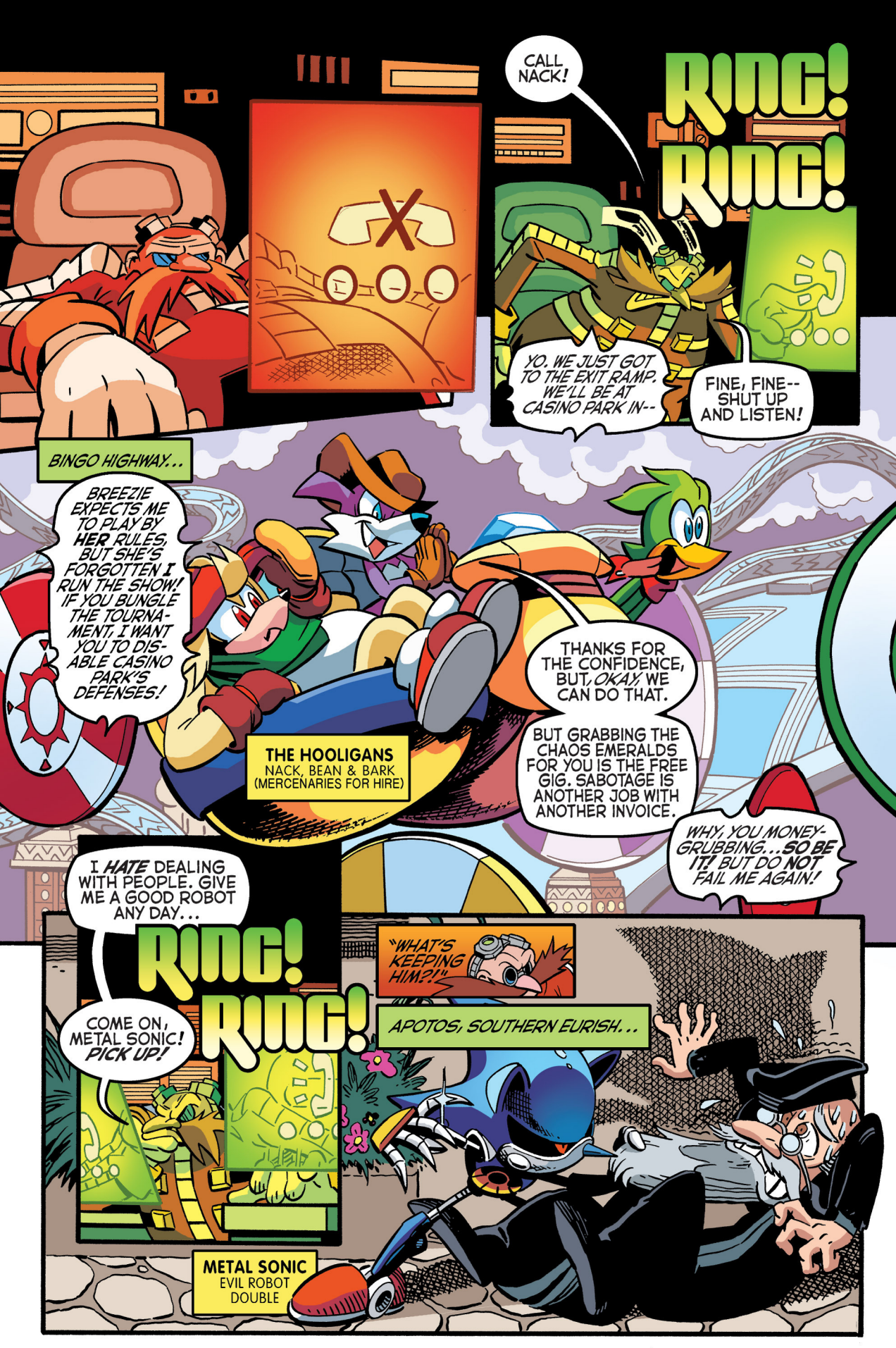
SONIC, TAILS AND AMY WILL BE *TEAM FIGHTERS.* I GOT YOU SPOTS ON THE ROSTER.
COOL!
YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
SAL...AH KNOW WE GOT WHUPPED EARLIER* BUT WE'D LIKE ANOTHER SHOT AT A CHAOS EMERALD, TOO.
*LAST ISSUE.
I TRIED TO GET US *ALL* ON THE ROSTER. BUT THE CUT-OFF FOR REGISTRATION ALREADY PASSED, AND BREEZIE WOULD ONLY CONCEDE TO SONIC, AMY AND TAILS SPECIFICALLY.
ISN'T BREEZIE CONNECTED TO A *LOT* OF SHADY STUFF? WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE *WORLD!* WHY DON'T WE JUST *TAKE* THE *EMERALD?*
I *DO* ENJOY THE DIRECT ROUTE...
BECAUSE WE DON'T DO THAT! SHE'S NOT LIKE EGGMAN--IT'D LOOK LIKE WE'D BE STEALING FROM HER!
AGAIN--*SAVING* THE *WORLD!*


AMY'S RIGHT--THE WORLD LOOKS TO US FOR HOPE, NOW MORE THAN EVER. IF WE ACT LIKE WE'RE ABOVE THE LAW, WE'RE ONLY SOWING TROUBLE FOR OURSELVES LATER.
HIRING THE CHAOTIX, PAYING OFF BREEZIE...IS YOUR DAD COOL WITH USING HIS KINGDOM'S TREASURY TO BANKROLL US?
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER BREEZIE IS A CRIMINAL KINGPIN OR A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WOMAN, I *DID* OFFER TO BUY THE EMERALD OFF HER. SHE WOULDN'T SELL IT.
IT'S ALL FOR A *VERY* GOOD CAUSE...
DADDY IS... PRAGMATIC. =*AHEM*=
ANYWAY! THE TOURNAMENT STARTS TOMORROW. GOOD LUCK, TEAM MEMBERS.
BREEZIE ADVERTISED THIS EVENT ***EVERYWHERE. WE*** MAY BE PLAYING IT STRAIGHT, BUT WHAT'S STOPPING DR. EGGMAN FROM INVADING CASINO PARK?

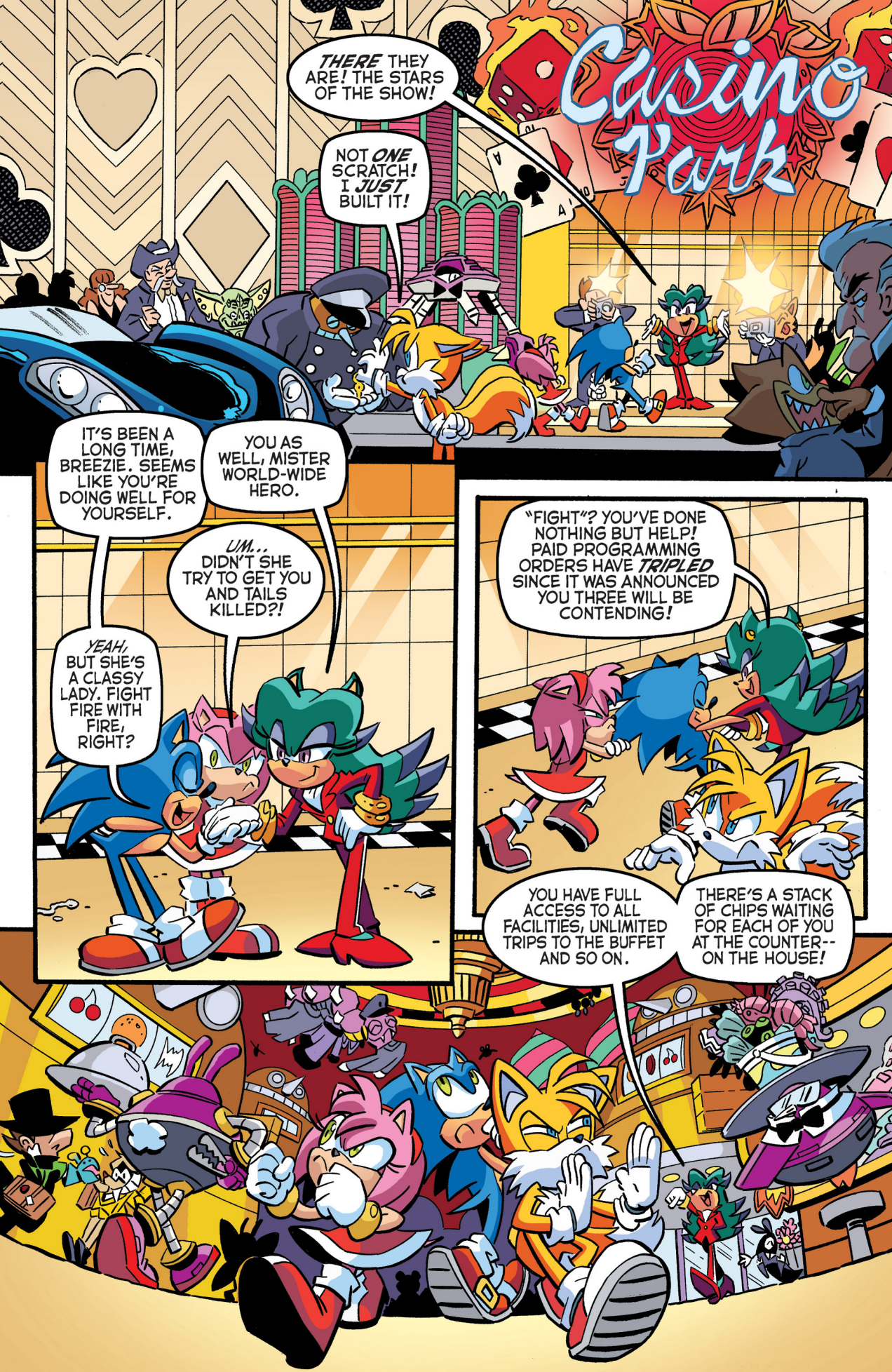

BREEZIE!
I'LL INVADE EVERY ONE OF YOUR PRECIOUS CASINOS! I'LL CARPET BOMB EVERY PROPERTY YOU OWN! I'LL LAUNCH A MISSILE AT EVERY MEDIA SATELLITE YOU HAVE!
NO--TEN MISSILES!!!
DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK NOT A "PEOPLE PERSON"
EGGMAN FOR YOU ON LINE ONE. ALSO, SCRATCH SAYS HE NEEDS YOU TO LOOK AT SOMETHING.
CASINO PARK ZONE, EMPIRE CITY...
≥SIGH< THANK YOU, COCONUTS. BRING THE LIMO AROUND.
HELLO? DON'T YOU DARE IGNORE ME!
HELLO, DOCTOR. YOU WERE SAYING--?
I WAS THREATENING! YOU WILL GIVE ME THE EMERALD, OR I'LL--!
YOU'LL DO JACK SQUAT. YOUR FORCES ARE SPREAD THIN CONTAINING THE GLOBAL CRISIS, AND ANYTHING YOU COULD SCRAPE TOGETHER WOULDN'T MAKE IT PAST MY DEFENSES.
AND BESIDES, YOU'RE LIKE ME! YOU LOVE YOUR CREATIONS! YOU HATE TO SEE ROBOT-ON-ROBOT VIOLENCE.
YOU WANT TO TALK ROBOTS? GIVE ME THE EMERALD, OR I WON'T OFFLOAD ANY MORE OF MY OLD BADNIK STOCK ON YOU!
I RESCUE THOSE POOR ROBOTS. YOU'D LOSE OUT ON ONE OF YOUR MOST LUCRATIVE EXPORTS.

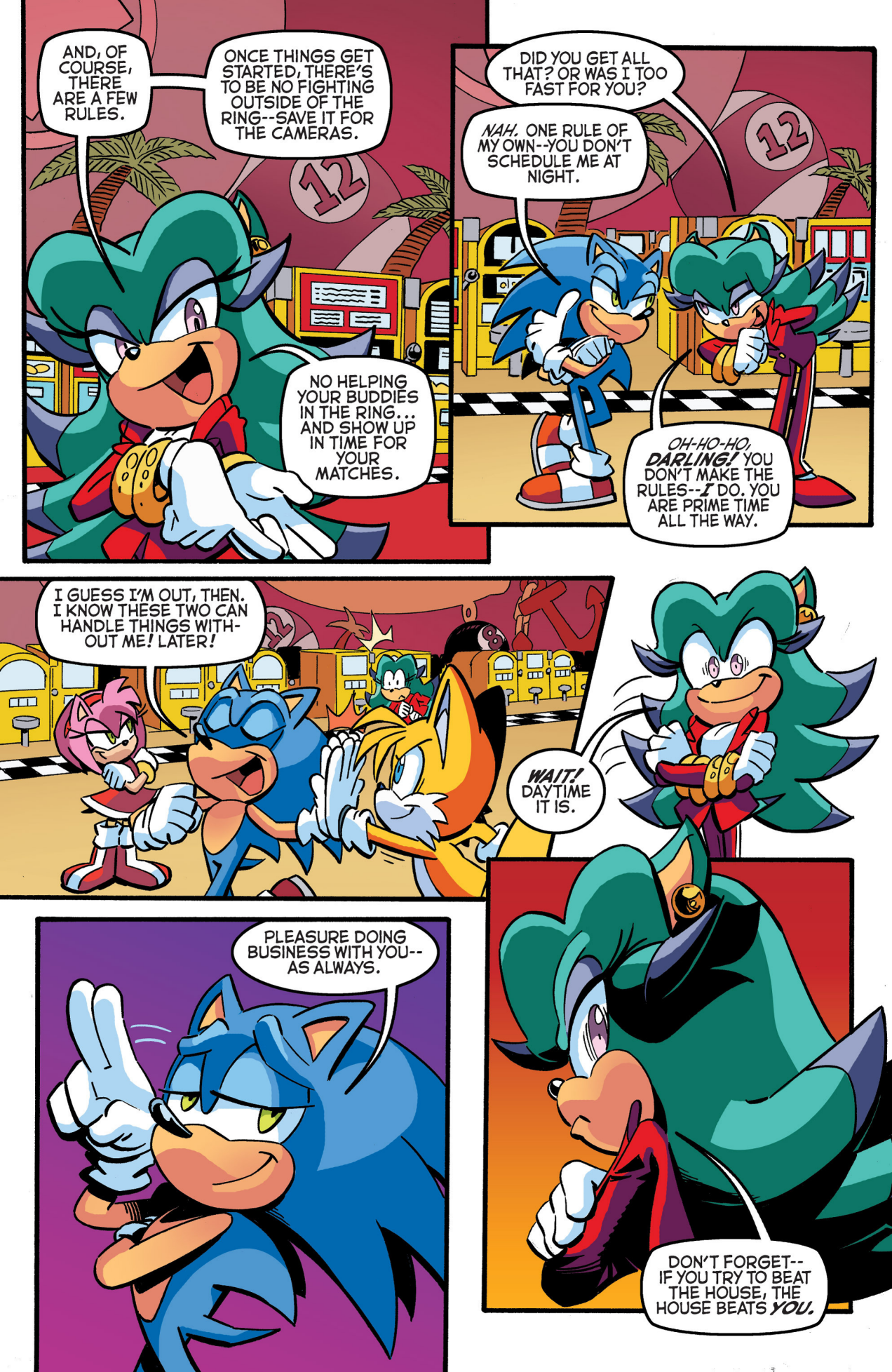
GRRR...FINE! I'LL BE GENEROUS. HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT?
HA HA HA! YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH!
WHAT?!
PANEM ET CIRCENSES, DOCTOR.
THE WORLD IS IN RUINS, AND ITS PEOPLE ARE MISERABLE. I WILL GIVE THEM A SHOW LIKE NO OTHER, AND THEY WILL PAY OUT THE NOSE FOR THE DISTRACTION.
YOU CAN'T HARM ME, THREATEN ME OR BUY ME. I LEARNED A LOT FROM YOU, IVO, BUT I'VE LONG SINCE GRADUATED FROM YOUR SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS.
YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME THAT WAY, YOU--!
SOMETHING NEEDED MY ATTENTION?
YES, MA'AM!

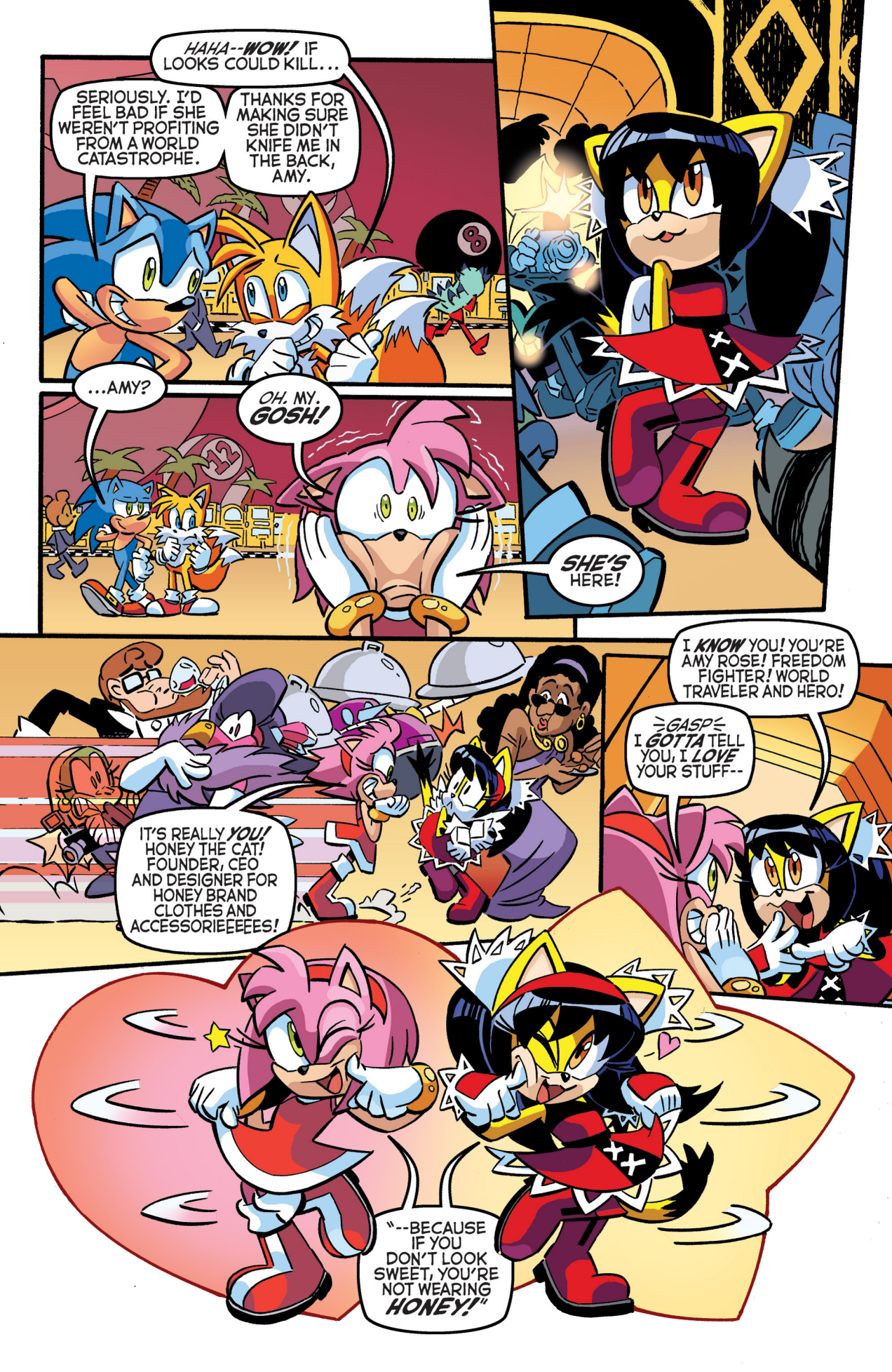
SOMEBODY MESSED WITH THE ROSTER FOR THE TOURNAMENT. SWAPPED OUT ONE CONTENDER FOR SOMEBODY NEW.
SO? YOU CAUGHT IT. CHANGE IT BACK.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE WHO WAS ADDED FIRST.
OH. OH! NEVER MIND! HE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE FOR A MUCH BETTER SHOW!
ARE YOU STILL THERE?
--COMMAND THE EGGMAN EMPIRE! AN EMPIRE! YOU CAN'T--!
I HAVE WORK TO DO. BUH-BYE.
boop!

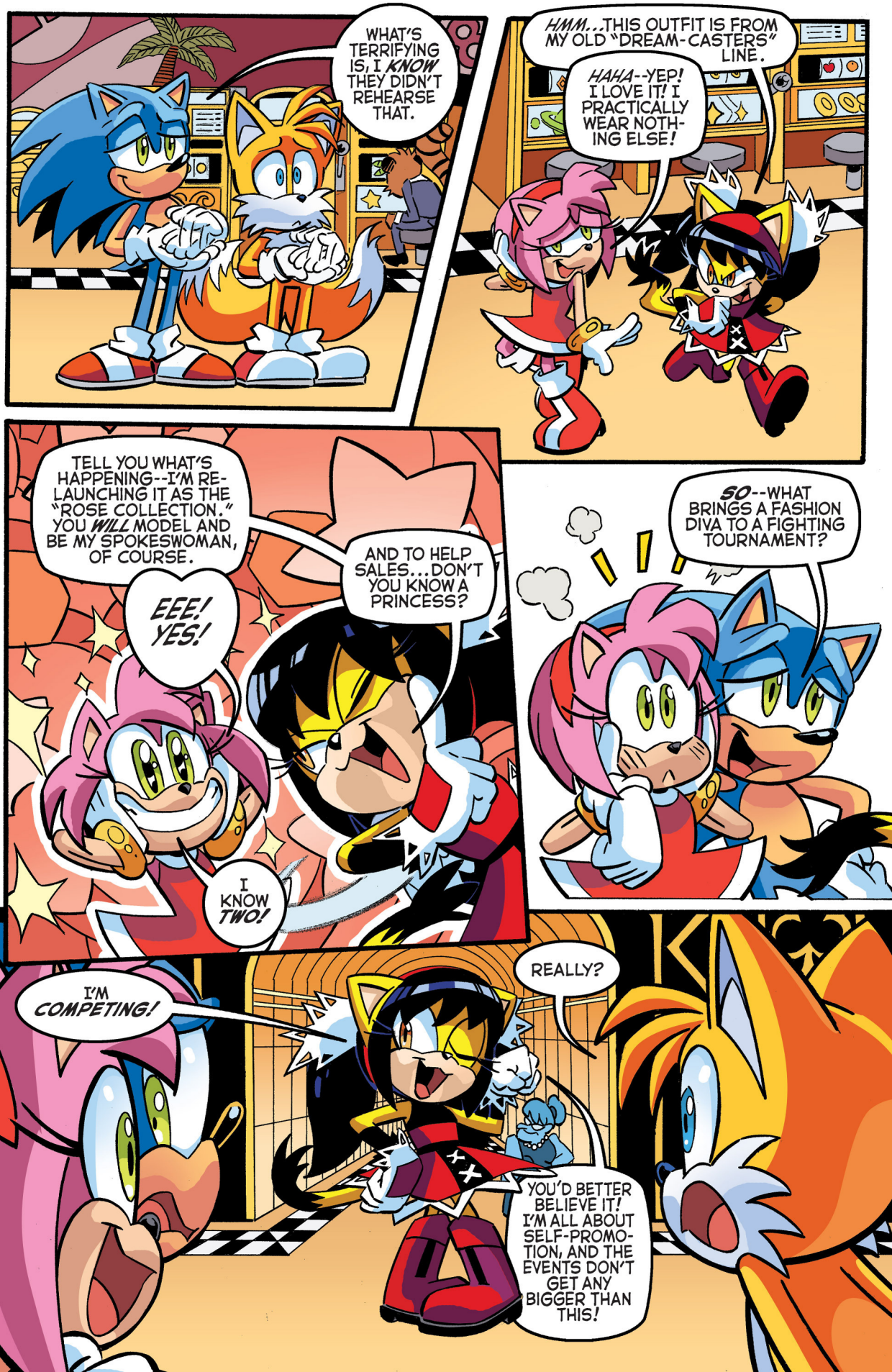

CALL NACK!
RING! RING!
YO. WE JUST GOT TO THE EXIT RAMP. WE'LL BE AT CASINO PARK IN--
FINE, FINE-- SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
BINGO HIGHWAY...
BREEZIE EXPECTS ME TO PLAY BY HER RULES, BUT SHE'S FORGOTTEN I RUN THE SHOW! IF YOU BUNGLE THE TOURNAMENT, I WANT YOU TO DISABLE CASINO PARK'S DEFENSES!
THE HOOLIGANS
NACK, BEAN & BARK
(MERCENARIES FOR HIRE)
THANKS FOR THE CONFIDENCE, BUT, OKAY, WE CAN DO THAT.
BUT GRABBING THE CHAOS EMERALDS FOR YOU IS THE FREE GIG. SABOTAGE IS ANOTHER JOB WITH ANOTHER INVOICE.
WHY, YOU MONEY-GRUBBING...SO BE IT! BUT DO NOT FAIL ME AGAIN!
I HATE DEALING WITH PEOPLE. GIVE ME A GOOD ROBOT ANY DAY...
RING! RING!
COME ON, METAL SONIC! PICK UP!
"WHAT'S KEEPING HIM?!"
APOTOS, SOUTHERN EURISH...
METAL SONIC
EVIL ROBOT DOUBLE

RING!
RING!
P-PLEASE! I-I D-DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU W-WANT! I'M J-JUST AN OLD MAN! I-I-I DON'T--!
D-DO YOU NEED TO GET THAT?
RING!
RING!
I HAVE FOUND A TARGET OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE GAIA TEMPLES. I AM...
NEVER MIND THAT! I'M SENDING YOU COORDINATES. GET OVER THERE --ON THE DOUBLE!
BUDOSH!
THIS IS A PROBLEM ...I MUST BREAK TRADITION AND WARN THE OTHERS.

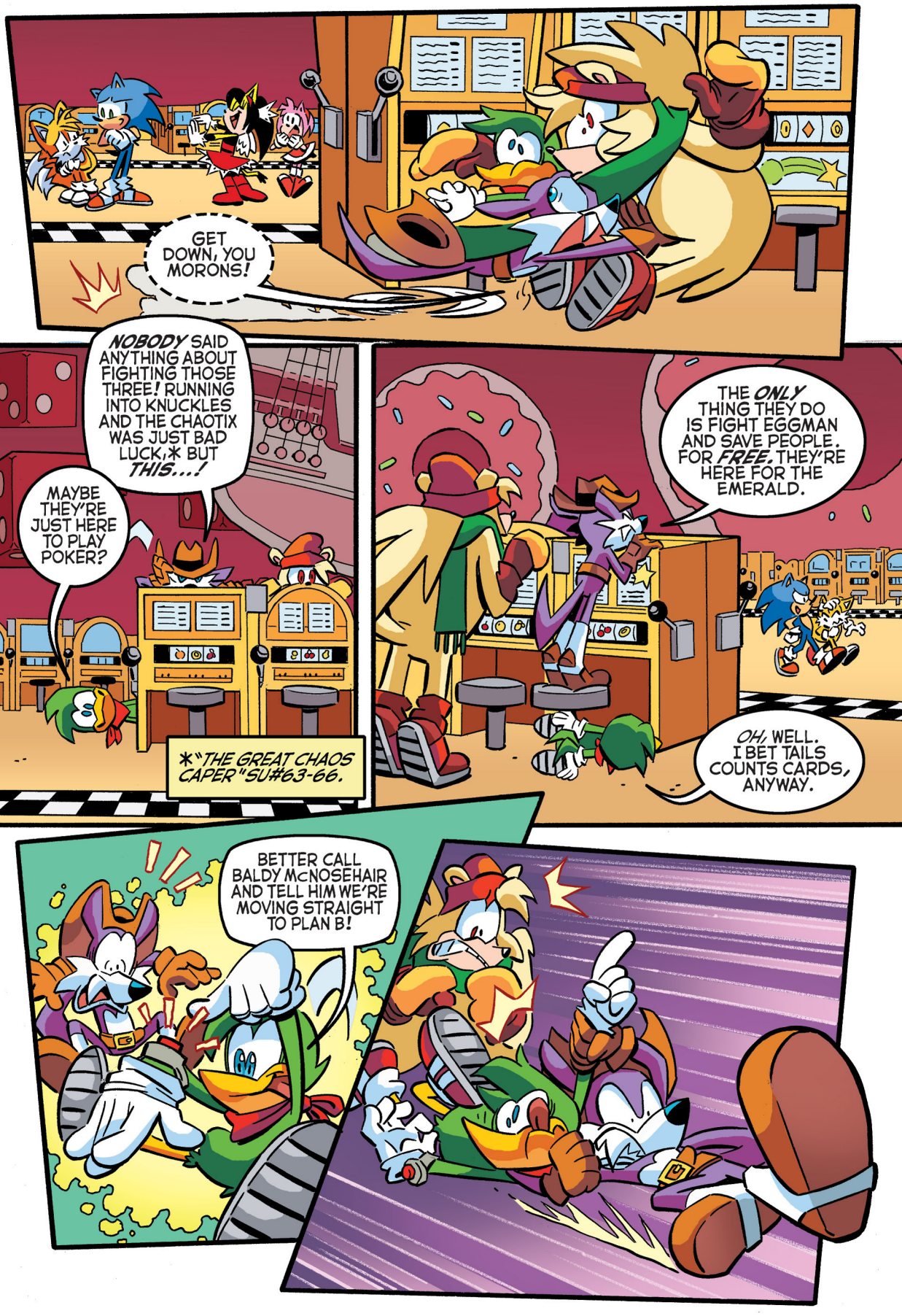

Casino Park
THERE THEY ARE! THE STARS OF THE SHOW!
NOT ONE SCRATCH! I JUST BUILT IT!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BREEZIE. SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DOING WELL FOR YOURSELF.
YOU AS WELL, MISTER WORLD-WIDE HERO.
UM... DIDN'T SHE TRY TO GET YOU AND TAILS KILLED?!
YEAH, BUT SHE'S A CLASSY LADY. FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, RIGHT?
"FIGHT"? YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT HELP! PAID PROGRAMMING ORDERS HAVE TRIPLED SINCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED YOU THREE WILL BE CONTENDING!
YOU HAVE FULL ACCESS TO ALL FACILITIES, UNLIMITED TRIPS TO THE BUFFET AND SO ON.
THERE'S A STACK OF CHIPS WAITING FOR EACH OF YOU AT THE COUNTER--ON THE HOUSE!


AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE A FEW RULES.
ONCE THINGS GET STARTED, THERE'S TO BE NO FIGHTING OUTSIDE OF THE RING--SAVE IT FOR THE CAMERAS.
NO HELPING YOUR BUDDIES IN THE RING... AND SHOW UP IN TIME FOR YOUR MATCHES.
DID YOU GET ALL THAT? OR WAS I TOO FAST FOR YOU?
NAH. ONE RULE OF MY OWN--YOU DON'T SCHEDULE ME AT NIGHT.
OH-HO-HO, DARLING! YOU DON'T MAKE THE RULES--I DO. YOU ARE PRIME TIME ALL THE WAY.
I GUESS I'M OUT, THEN. I KNOW THESE TWO CAN HANDLE THINGS WITHOUT ME! LATER!
WAIT! DAYTIME IT IS.
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU--AS ALWAYS.
DON'T FORGET--IF YOU TRY TO BEAT THE HOUSE, THE HOUSE BEATS YOU.

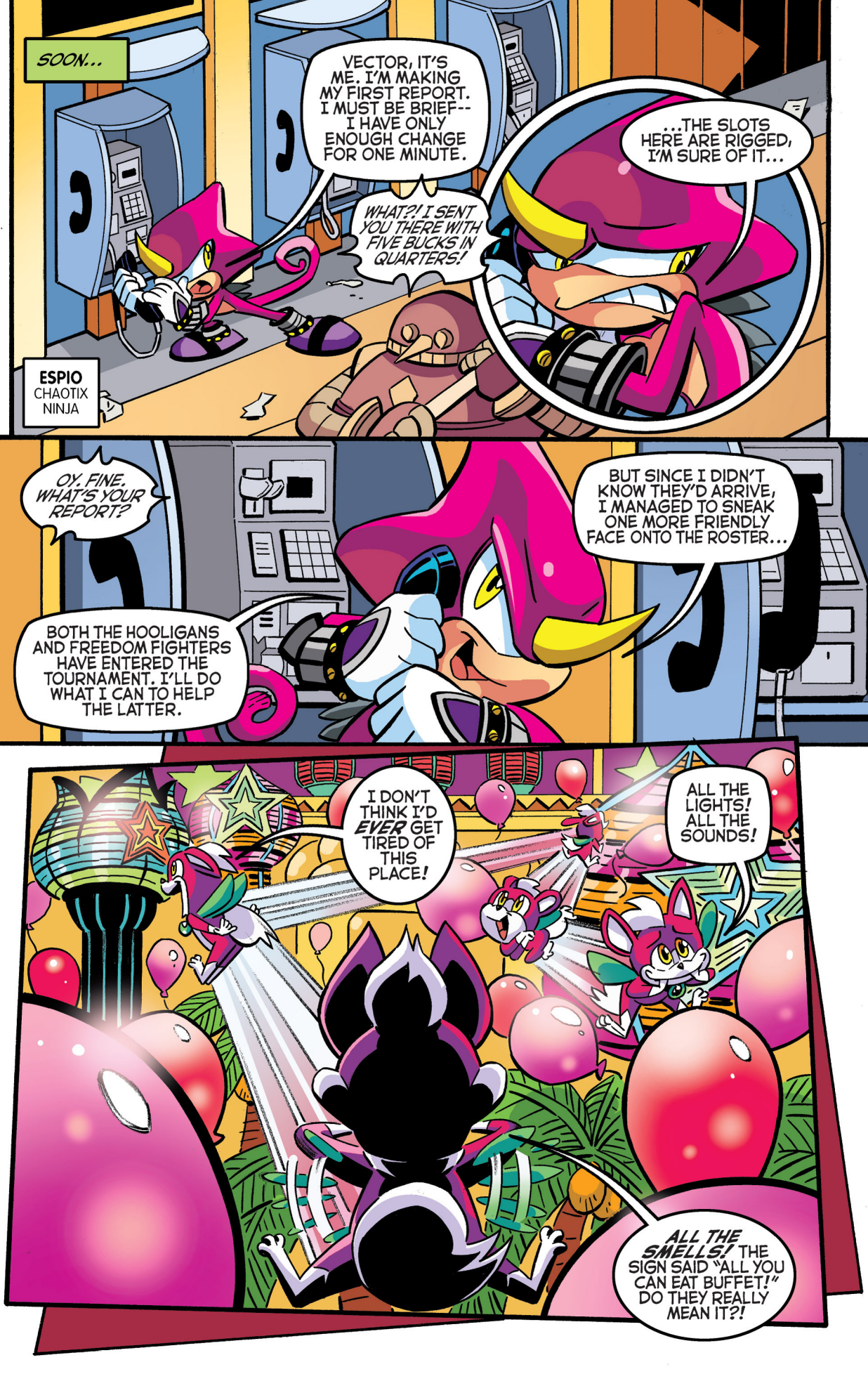

HAHA--WOW! IF LOOKS COULD KILL...
SERIOUSLY. I'D FEEL BAD IF SHE WEREN'T PROFITING FROM A WORLD CATASTROPHE.
THANKS FOR MAKING SURE SHE DIDN'T KNIFE ME IN THE BACK, AMY.
...AMY?
OH. MY. GOSH!
SHE'S HERE!
I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE AMY ROSE! FREEDOM FIGHTER! WORLD TRAVELER AND HERO!
=GASP= I GOTTA TELL YOU, I LOVE YOUR STUFF--
IT'S REALLY YOU! HONEY THE CAT! FOUNDER, CEO AND DESIGNER FOR HONEY BRAND CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIEEEES!
"--BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T LOOK SWEET, YOU'RE NOT WEARING HONEY!"


WHAT'S TERRIFYING IS, I KNOW THEY DIDN'T REHEARSE THAT.
HMM...THIS OUTFIT IS FROM MY OLD "DREAM-CASTERS" LINE.
HAHA--YEP! I LOVE IT! I PRACTICALLY WEAR NOTHING ELSE!
TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING--I'M RE-LAUNCHING IT AS THE "ROSE COLLECTION." YOU WILL MODEL AND BE MY SPOKESWOMAN, OF COURSE.
AND TO HELP SALES...DON'T YOU KNOW A PRINCESS?
EEE! YES!
I KNOW TWO!
SO--WHAT BRINGS A FASHION DIVA TO A FIGHTING TOURNAMENT?
I'M COMPETING!
REALLY?
YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT! I'M ALL ABOUT SELF-PROMOTION, AND THE EVENTS DON'T GET ANY BIGGER THAN THIS!

WHAT ABOUT YOU THREE? AREN'T YOU HIGH-PROFILE ENOUGH ALREADY?
WE'VE COME TO WIN THE CHAOS EMERALD. IT'S A CRUCIAL PART OF OUR PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD!
IS THAT A FACT?
LIKE I SAID, I'M JUST HERE TO ADVERTISE. IF I WIN, I'LL HAND THE GEM OVER TO YOU GUYS.
REALLY?! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
AND IN RETURN, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WILL HELP PROMOTE MY NEXT LINE, RIIIIIIIIIGHT?
...I ONLY WEAR SHOES, SOCKS AND GLOVES.
YOU CAN *ACCESSORIZE.*
OHMYGOSH, CREAM WOULD LOOK ***SO CUTE*** IN YOUR KIDS' CLOTHING!
OH, BOY. IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE ON OUR SIDE, AT LEAST...
...SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE WE'RE FACING YET.
SHINY... OVERLOAD...


GET DOWN, YOU MORONS!
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTING THOSE THREE! RUNNING INTO KNUCKLES AND THE CHAOTIX WAS JUST BAD LUCK,* BUT THIS...!
MAYBE THEY'RE JUST HERE TO PLAY POKER?
*"THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER" SU#63-66.
THE ONLY THING THEY DO IS FIGHT EGGMAN AND SAVE PEOPLE. FOR FREE. THEY'RE HERE FOR THE EMERALD.
OH, WELL. I BET TAILS COUNTS CARDS, ANYWAY.
BETTER CALL BALDY McNOSEHAIR AND TELL HIM WE'RE MOVING STRAIGHT TO PLAN B!

ARE YOU CRAZY?!
CLINICALLY OR FIGURATIVELY?
YOU CAN'T TELL EGGMAN!
WHY? HE'S GONNA FIND OUT ANYWAY.
YEAH, AND BY THEN, WE'LL BE FIGHTING AND COMPLETING THE JOB! THINK ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL PRIDE!
WE STILL HAVE THAT ?!
SHUT UP.
C'MON--LET'S KEEP A LOW PROFILE UNTIL THE FIGHTS. MAYBE WE CAN TAKE ONE OF THEM BY SURPRISE.


SOON...
VECTOR, IT'S ME. I'M MAKING MY FIRST REPORT. I MUST BE BRIEF-- I HAVE ONLY ENOUGH CHANGE FOR ONE MINUTE.
WHAT?! I SENT YOU THERE WITH FIVE BUCKS IN QUARTERS!
...THE SLOTS HERE ARE RIGGED, I'M SURE OF IT...
ESPIO
CHAOTIX NINJA
OY. FINE. WHAT'S YOUR REPORT?
BOTH THE HOOLIGANS AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE ENTERED THE TOURNAMENT. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP THE LATTER.
BUT SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D ARRIVE, I MANAGED TO SNEAK ONE MORE FRIENDLY FACE ONTO THE ROSTER...
I DON'T THINK I'D EVER GET TIRED OF THIS PLACE!
ALL THE LIGHTS! ALL THE SOUNDS!
ALL THE SMELLS! THE SIGN SAID "ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET!" DO THEY REALLY MEAN IT?!

I'M SORRY... HERE I AM GOING ON AND ON, WHEN I SHOULD BE HELPING YOU LOOK FOR THE MASTER EMERALD SHARDS...
DON'T SWEAT IT. LEAVE THE TREASURE HUNTING TO ME.
I CAN SENSE THE CHAOS ENERGY-- THERE'S GOTTA BE A SHARD HERE!
CHIP (SUPPOSEDLY) POWERFUL SPIRIT
KNUCKLES SONIC'S LONGTIME RIVAL
THE FIGHTERS HAVE ASSEMBLED! THE STAKES ARE SET! ROUND ONE BEGINS NEXT TIME!
UNTIL THEN, THERE'S MORE SONIC ACTION IN SONIC UNIVERSE AND SONIC BOOM! AND DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 269

CHAMPIONS

PART 2 OF 4

WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT VARIANT BY

T. Rex

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC RETAILER